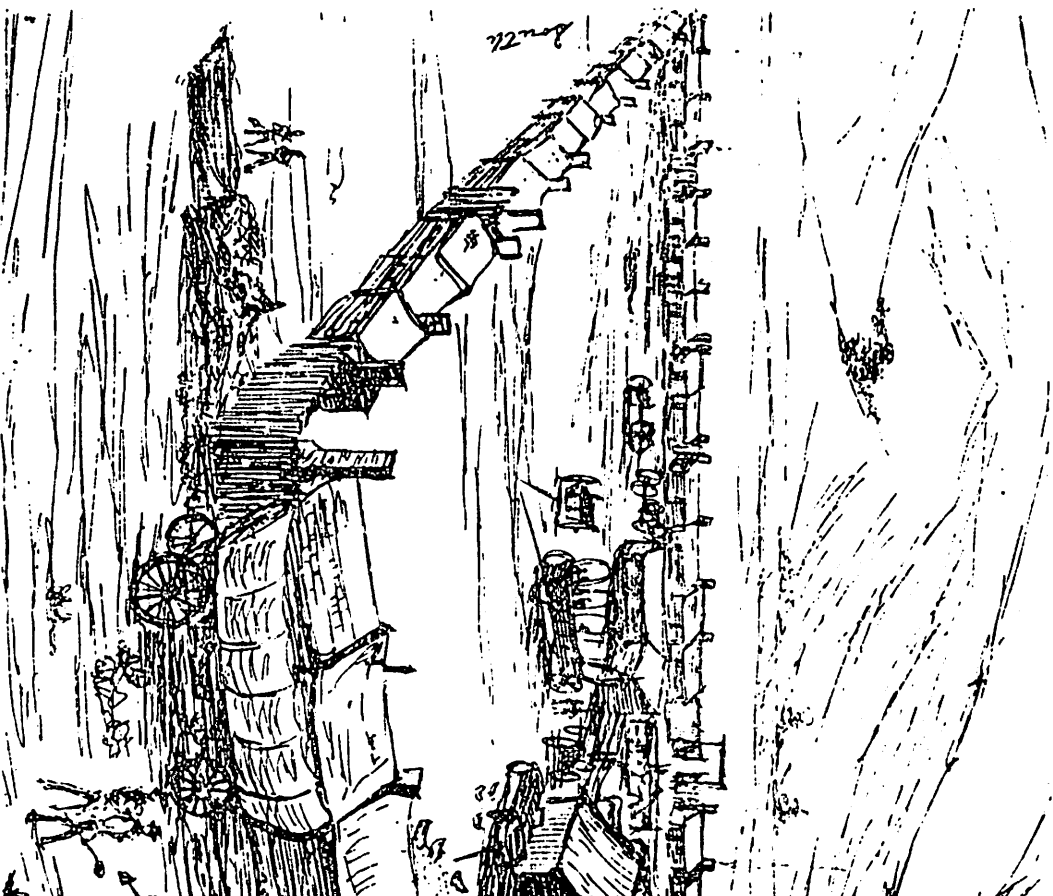


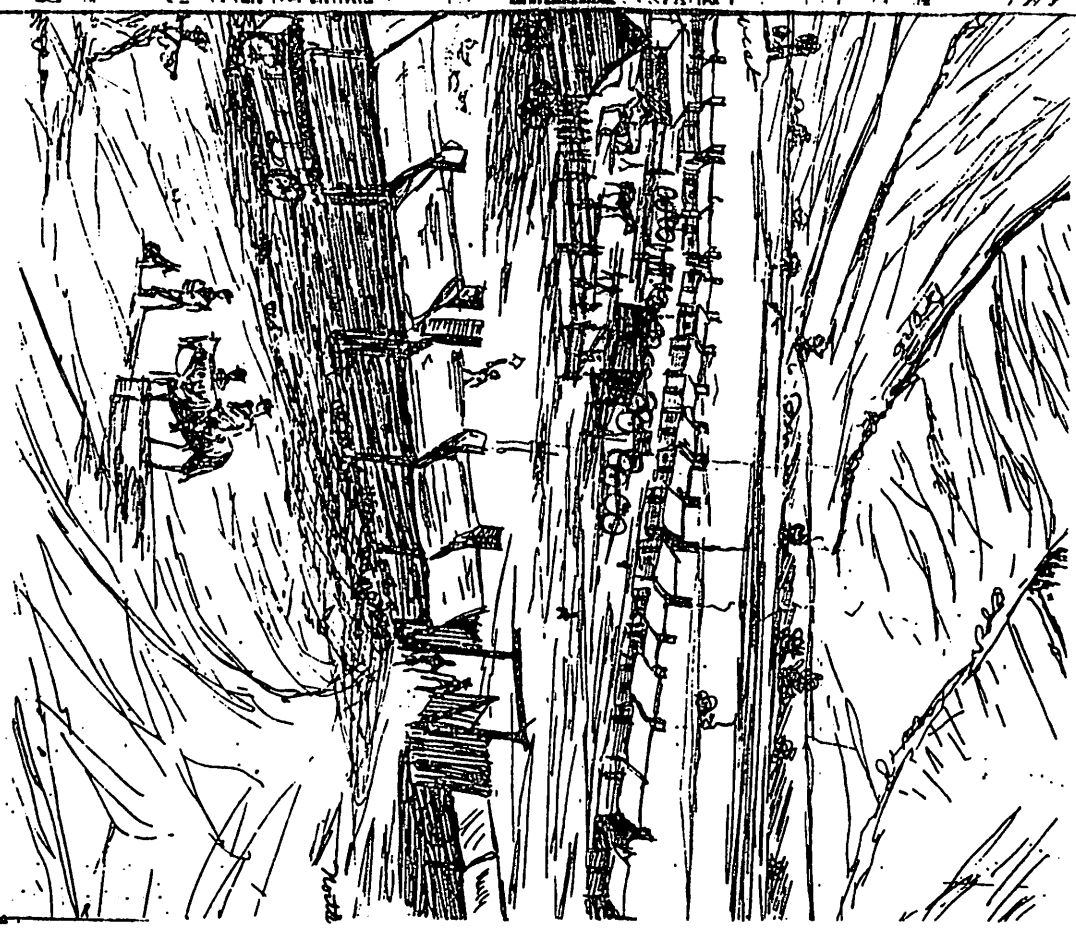
Midway

Moments

above the road



Fort



Midway

way was soon laid out with a public square in the center and ample city blocks surrounding the square.

Then began the work of "forting in." Around the central square some 75 primitive dirt-roofed log cabins sprang into existence, some abutting against each other, while between others were erected strong panels of upright posts. In this manner an impregnable wall was formed around the square. Small windows were provided at strategic points to serve as portholes in case of attack. Life in the new fort-string was conducted under military law, with officers and picket patrols acting at the call of the bugler, John Watkins.

Fort Midway brought to the people a sense of well provided security, and by bringing them close together helped develop a new happiness and community spirit. Fortunately, the fort was never attacked, though the settlers were ready to defend their lives and homes at any time. The fact that the fort was not molested speaks highly of the ability of the pioneers to cooperate in community projects.

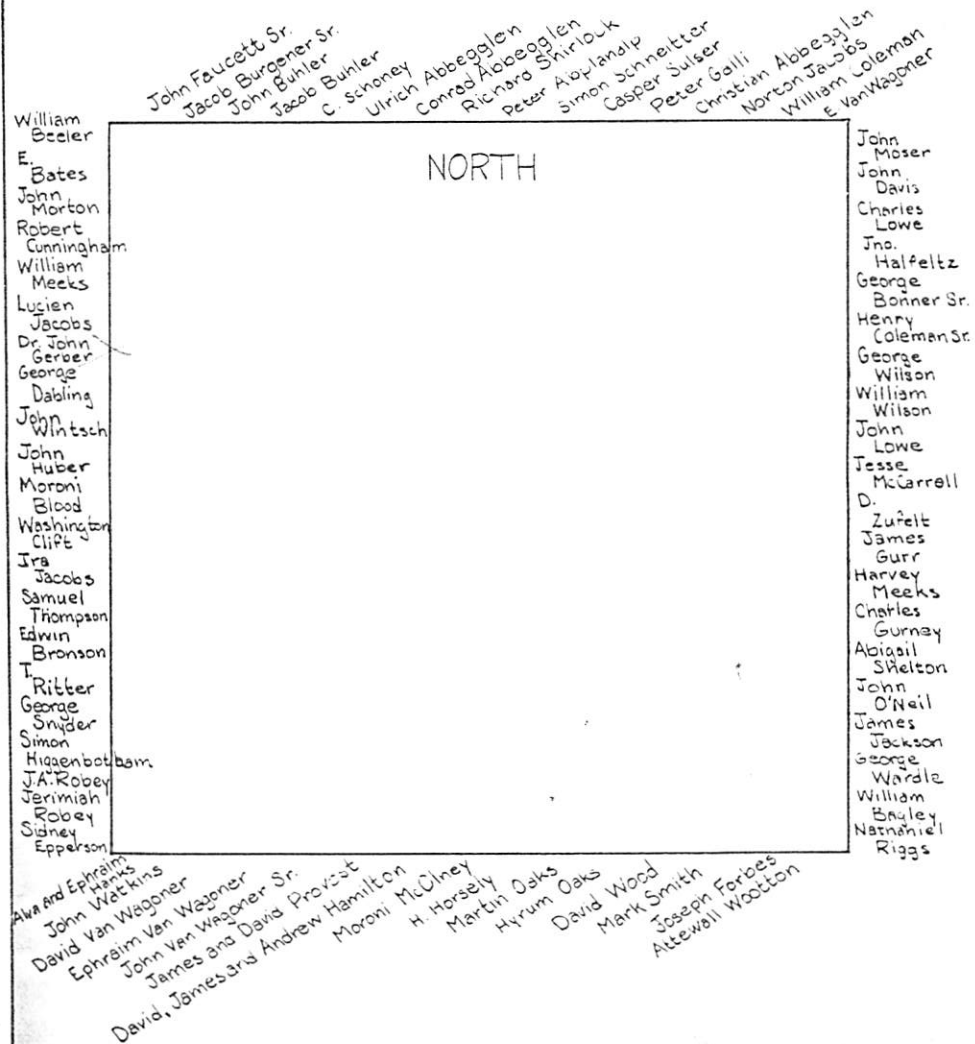
The first 75 families in the old fort and their locations are as follows:

From the southwest to the northwest corner: Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey, J. A. Robey, Simon Higgenbotham, George Snyder, Thomas Ritter, Edwin Bronson, Samuel Thompson, Ira Jacobs, Washington Clift, Moroni Blood, John Huber, John Wintseh, George Dabling,



FORT MIDWAY

FAMILY LOCATIONS



Fort Midway plan showing location of each family

SIMON SHELBY
HIGGENBOTHAM = teacher

Simon Shelby Higgenbotham, son of William Elliott Higgenbotham and Louisa Ward Higgenbotham, was born June 20, 1839, in Burks Garden, Tazewell County, Virginia.

The Higgenbotham family were devoted members of the Mormon Church. In 1846 they were driven from their home in Nauvoo by a mob. They returned to their old home

657

658

HOV



in Burks Garden, where the father died. Mrs. Higgenbotham came West with three children, Simon, Elizabeth Letitia, and Frances David. They reached Utah in 1864. The family first resided in Provo. Simon came to Midway to teach school. He and his family were devoted friends of the Robeys and Springers in Midway.

The Higgenbothams later moved to Ogden, where Simon and Francis became very successful merchants. Elizabeth Letitia married David Harold Peery, a very prominent man of Utah.

Simon Higgenbotham died January 4, 1889, in Ogden, Utah.

Log Cabin school
inside Fort Midway

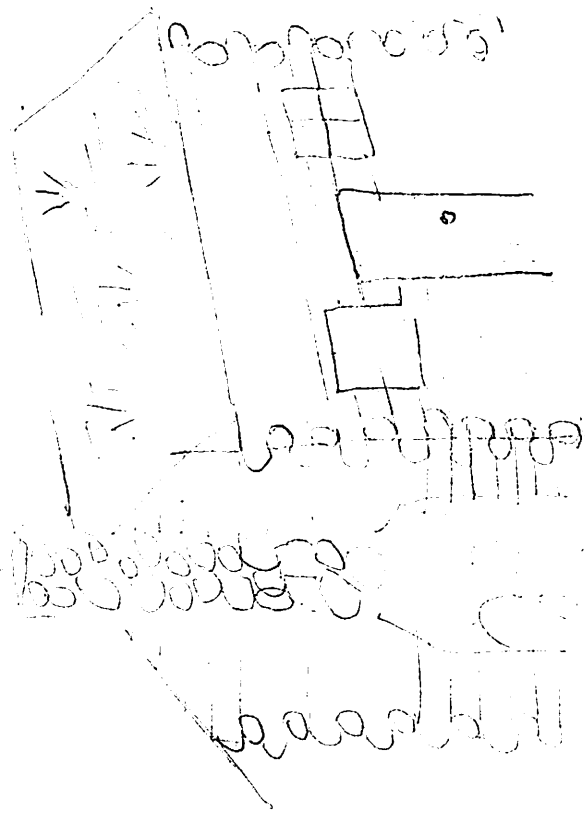
The first "Midway" School was made of logs - one room and located at about 174 W main street (next door west of present (1988) Midway Third Ward. Log slab seats, stone slates to write on. Simon Shelby Higgenbotham was teacher - Text Wilson Reder. H.B.U.M. 399

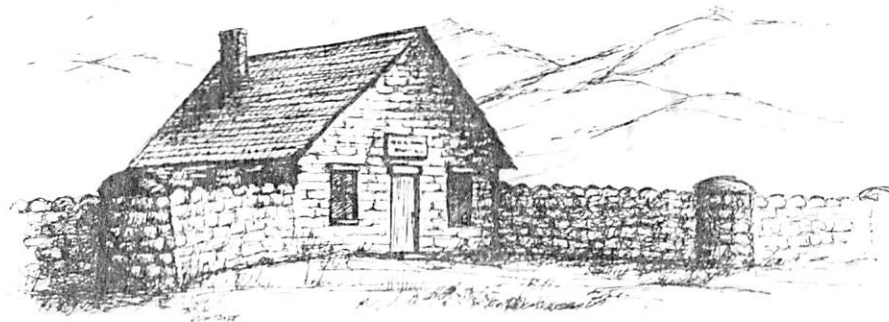
log Bldg
like
this
one



Example of early log cabin, built by John Ulrich Probst, Sr. and his son Jacob at Midway.

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The old Midway Tithing Office as depicted in a sketch by artist Bill Whitaker 551

School in Midway was held in the LDS Tithing Office between 18 to 18.

Note: There were 2 different LDS Tithing Offices in Midway over the years:

+1886 This one @ 226 No 200 West - Midway (See HBUM p 551 for description.)
The other one p 609 HBUM

DESCRIPTION		
	Midway Tithing Offices:	
1.	<u>In 1873 a Tithing office was built of potrock.</u> It was located: This was a one-room bldg. It was also used for English-speaking meetings. By 1875 The German Hall was built for German - Swiss meetings - HBUM p 609.	
2.	<u>By 1886 a new Tithing office was built of native potrock.</u> It was 24 x 32 ft in size. It was located on the spot where Reed Kohler's residence was in 1963. It had a root cellar under the building for vegetables + potatoes to be stored - for tithing in kind. The back part was used as a granary. - HBUM p 551 & picture	

About the same time in 1886 a new tithing office was built. It was also built of native rock and measured 24 by 32 ft. with a small belfry on the north end. It was located where Reed Kohler's residence now stands. There was a root cellar underneath the building where potatoes, vegetables, etc., paid as tithing were stored. The back part was used as a granary for grains paid in tithing. At this time much of the tithing was paid in produce.

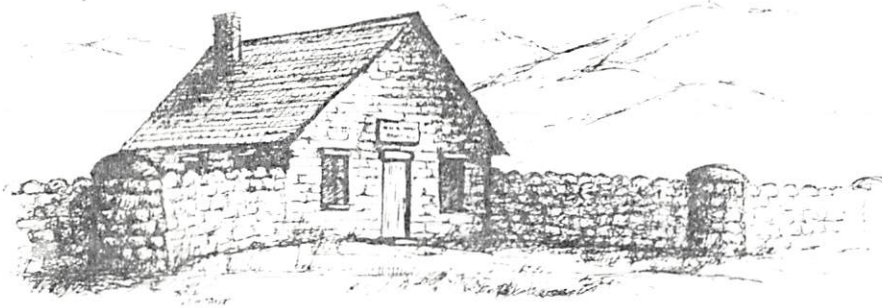
The front room was still used for various types of meetings and as an extra class room for Sunday School and Primary. The Relief Society also met there for many years. In the back part of the lot was the tithing hay barn. It was a great problem many times for the Bishop to convert the produce into cash before spoilage took place.

551

over

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The old Midway Tithing Office as depicted in a sketch by artist Bill Whitaker

1888 was a very dry year for Provo Valley. Many of the old springs dried up. On June 11 there was no water at all in the Provo River bed between Midway and Heber. Because of the drought, there was only two-thirds of a crop raised in Midway.

In January, 1893 Bishop Van Wagoner asked for a release as Bishop of Midway Ward. January 29, 1893 John Watkins was ordained Bishop by Apostle John Henry Smith and Alvah J. Alexander, 1st Counselor, Conrad Abegglen, 2nd Counselor, John Huber, ward clerk and chorister.

At the Saturday session of stake conference held January 26 the Midway Choir sang four request numbers.

On the evening of January 27, after the close of the stake conference, Apostle John Henry Smith came to Midway with President Hatch and dedicated the new meeting house.

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CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Knowledge Is Power

In July of 1838, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints declared that "Next to worship of God, we esteem the education of our children and of the rising generation." However, such emphasis on education was not new to members of the Church, for the gaining of knowledge and wisdom has always been declared a vital part of life in the revelations of the Lord. They had been taught such doctrines as "The Glory of God is Intelligence"—"Search not for riches, but for wisdom."

It was only logical, then, that the first settlers of Midway would be influenced by the educational ideals of the Church as they lived and worked together to build a new community.

Though they knew how to survive under the rigors of pioneer living, these settlers knew also that the refining influences of life came best through organized schools and in their Church worship. So they built early in their settling days a combination school house and Church building for community use.

The first school in Midway was made of logs, and offered no better facilities than log slabs for seats. Yet, the pupils appreciated what they had and worked diligently on their stone slates to master writing, arithmetic and other school subjects.

Simon Higgenbotham was the first teacher in the school, which was built just west of the present Second Ward chapel site. A stream nearby provided water for the school, and entertainment for the youngsters during recess time. Mr. Higgenbotham's main text was the old Wilson Reader.

When Midway was formed from the upper and lower settlements in 1866, the old log schools were becoming a thing of the past. The people desired more permanent facilities, and so by 1867 a school meeting was called to organize a board of trustees and form a new school. David Van Wagonen, James Lowe and John Huber were elected for a term of two years and instructed to lay plans for building a new school.

The south-east corner lot of the public square was selected as the site of the school, and a tax was voted for the new building, and also for the support of the school. Each family was to furnish one-half cord of rock at the building site. The school ledger for 1867 to 1869 indicates that money was difficult to raise. However, many people paid their taxes with lumber, potatoes, wheat, wood, shingles, by mending windows,

hauling rock or coal, working with a team, assisting the mason or by paying a few dollars toward the teacher's salary.

Even though taxes were to pay the costs of the school, many found difficulty in paying them in cash. So more often than not, the pupils attended by paying tuition. The teachers received their salaries by living with families of the students and by accepting produce, potatoes, wheat, flour, or most any other product that they could use.

The new school was completed in time for the 1868-69 school term, and Attewall Wootton, Sr. was hired as the new principal. He was a well-trained educator, and possessed a keen mind. At the age of six he had read "The Book of Mormon." Because of his aptitude, he was given every opportunity for learning that pioneer life could afford. He quickly mastered all that his teachers knew, and soon became a teacher himself. His first assignment was in the schools of American Fork.

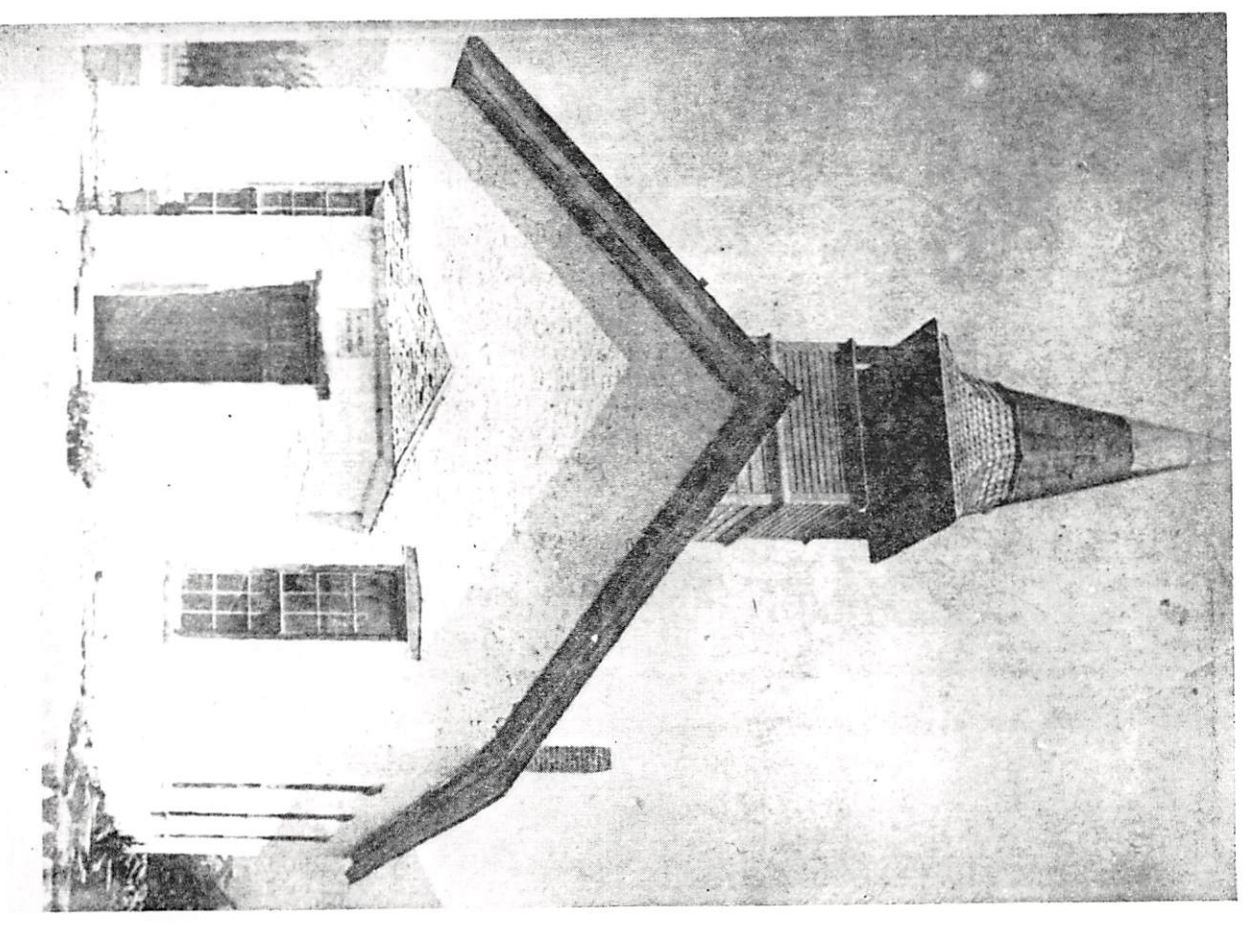
After his marriage to Cynthia J. Jewett, one of his classmates, Mr. Wootton drove a herd of cattle into Wasatch County for his stepfather, and decided to settle in Midway. He became principal of the new school and served until 1887 when he became Superintendent of Schools in Wasatch County, a position which he held for many years. Three generations of Wasatch County residents were trained under his direction.

As was the case in all pioneer communities, the Church and the school shared the same facilities. While this was the most practical use of the building in Midway, it was the source of considerable trouble beginning about 1869.

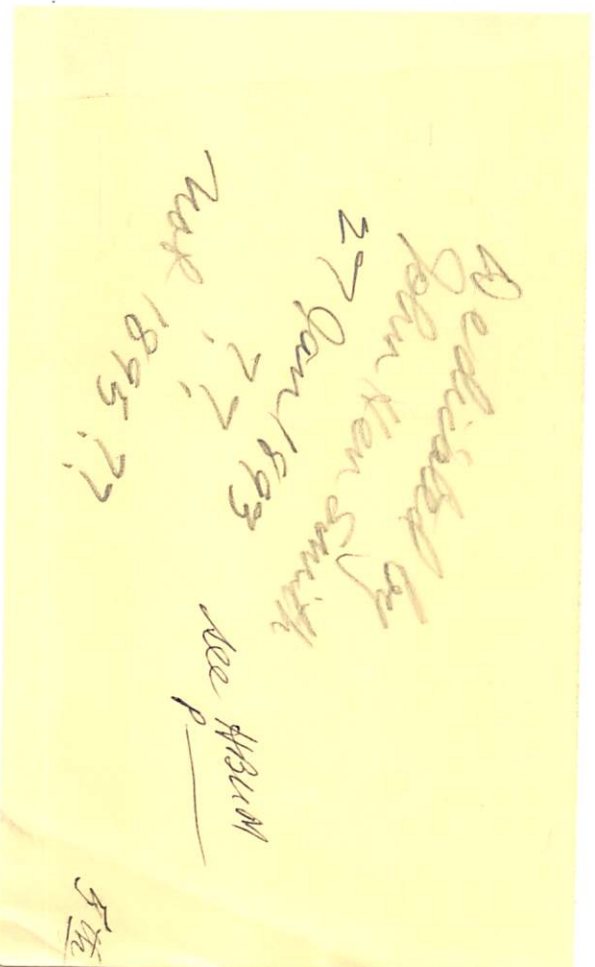
This was the year that the transcontinental railroad was completed through Utah, and with the new "iron horses" came many non-members of the Church. A great number of these people of other religious beliefs settled in or near Midway because of the mining boom that resulted in Park City and other places in Wasatch County.

Serious difficulties arose when many non-members of the Church refused to have their children attend schools in buildings that were used by the Mormons for their religious worship. As a result, many denominational schools were established. These church schools were also a subtle missionary effort on the part of the various religious groups, since they boasted free tuition, something the poor Mormon pioneers found hard to compete with.

In 1885, the New West Education Commission, a society of the Congregational Church, opened a school in Midway. Many pupils attended because there was no tuition charge. The teachers were well trained, with most of them coming from the east. Some of the first teachers at the New West school were Anna Viola La Rose from Illinois, Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College of Massachusetts and Etta Hunt. Other teachers through the years included Miss Anna Slosson, Mrs. J. C. Caldwell, Rena Clark, Frances Buck, Geneva Green, Lizzie Abbott Bond,



The first meeting house in Midway, dedicated in 1895. It was built of native rock and measured 30 by 60 feet.



Other community residents furthered their education by attending evening lectures given by prominent individuals. One such lecturer was a Professor Clegg, an English phrenologist who settled in Heber.

Many of the talented young people in Midway took advantage of state colleges or Church schools in other areas to further their training. Some of the first to leave home to attend college were John, Mary and Emma Huber, the eldest children of John Huber, who was secretary of the school board. They went to Provo where they attended the Brigham Young Academy. Jacob Probst also attended there. Jerry Springer, Reese Clayburn and Nymphus Watkins were some of the first to attend school at the Utah Agricultural College in Logan, where they were naval cadets.



Jerry Springer, Naval cadet at Utah Agricultural College in Logan about 1900.

By 1889 the Wasatch Stake Academy had been established by the church in the new Stake House in Heber, and many Midway students attended the academy for secondary and religious education.

In 1890, the superintendent of schools issued a report on territorial and local school taxes, which showed that Midway was assessed territorial taxes of \$1,116.36, county taxes of \$352.80 and local taxes of \$8.56, or a total of \$2,177.72 in taxes. This tax was based on \$4.43 territorial taxes per pupil and \$1.40 county tax for each pupil. This would indicate that there were 252 pupils attending the Midway schools in 1890.

This large enrollment at the school made the school building very inadequate, and so it was decided that enlargement was necessary. The remodeling included addition of a second story to the school and a large room for higher departments. This made three rooms available in the school, which by now had three teachers. Attewall Wootton, Sr., continued as principal, even though he was also superintendent of schools. With the remodeling came also new school equipment, including the latest models of globes, microscopes, physiological charts, geometric forms,



Students of the Midway School in the early 1880's are photographed outside their school building. Teachers at the time were Attewall Wootton Sr. and Attewall Wootton Jr.

geography charts and maps. "Commodious and neat" desks were also furnished.

Leo Haefeli, a former teacher, and newspaper correspondent, wrote at the time. "I defy any school district of the same size or even a good many considerably larger to show better educational facilities than are at present furnished to the people of this ward. That these facilities, gratuitous tuition, and sufficient teachers, staff-graded classes, excellent apparatus, convenient rooms have been appreciated by the people of Midway is evident by the fact that out of a legal population of about 270, the opening days of the mid-winter term found an enrollment of about 240, despite the inclement weather. True at the time of the high water tide in the spell of epidemic, the attendance fell off considerably, temporarily more than 60 per cent in the primary department, but the worst is over and the school grounds are reassuming their wanted air of vivacity about the hour when the bell's brazen tongue summons the little and big scholars to their desks and tasks."

In another newspaper column, Mr. Haefeli indicates that school children are perhaps the same from generation to generation. He wrote: "The other day one boy hurt another quite seriously by holding a freshly sharpened lead pencil under him, just as the school mate was about to resume his seat at the desk. Such tomfoolery cannot be reprimanded too severely nor suppressed too promptly."

School teachers of the 1890's were expected to improve themselves

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Built 1867-69

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

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See pp 599-603
occupied School yr 1868-69
Attewall Wootton Sr. Principal
& teacher

For Architect:
over

in training, as is evident from the agenda of one meeting of the Wasatch County Education Assn.

With Supt. Wootton in charge, the agenda was as follows:

- (1) A report of a committee appointed to select a list of books to be approved by the members as fit literature to be added to the library;
- (2) A special lecture by Leo Haefeli on the Absurdity of Trying to Make the English Language Fit the Latin Grammar;
- (3) Exercise by E. D. Clyde in using the teachers as a class to illustrate his method of teaching multiplication of common fractions;
- (4) General discussions by members on declension of the English

noun;

- (5) Subject of percentages.

Trustees of the schools were also expected to attend these meetings along with the teachers.

When Utah became a state in 1896 it was necessary by law to elect a new school board and C. I. Bronson, John Huber and John Van Wagoner were voted to three, two and one-year terms respectively. Their salary was \$20 per year.

At the first meeting of the new board, they engaged Artewall Wootton as teacher of the grammar grades and principal for \$75 per month. William T. Wootton, intermediate department, \$50 per month; J. E. Morton, second primary, \$50; and Simon Epperson, Primary Department, \$50. In addition to the three rooms in the school house, the Swiss-German Hall was rented for \$5 per month. Custodian at the main building was Louis Coleman, who was paid \$12.50 per month. Andrew Burgener was paid \$5 per month to care for the Swiss-German Hall.

By 1898 the "growing pains" had seriously affected the Midway educational program. Teachers were handling 50 or more pupils each day in crowded, inadequate classrooms.

The school board subsequently called a meeting to discuss the crowded conditions, but the proposals failed to obtain a majority vote, and so they continued on as they had the past year.

By 1900 the school board obtained a vote to proceed with an entirely new school building. They purchased the property north of the present school for \$168.75 from the Midway Town Corporation in February of 1901.

Architect John Boss was asked to draw plans and make estimates for a new building with four rooms. In a meeting of the taxpayers in March, the clerk reported that the school district had \$512 in material and about \$900 in cash to begin the new building. The taxpayers voted a tax of one-half of one per cent to bring in about \$800 more so that at least two rooms could be ready for occupancy by the winter term. Plans for a six-room school were also discussed, but after some discussion were abandoned.

Work then began in earnest, with the board offering \$1.50 per day

Other community residents furthered their education by attending evening lectures given by prominent individuals. One such lecturer was a Professor Clegg, an English phrenologist who settled in Heber.

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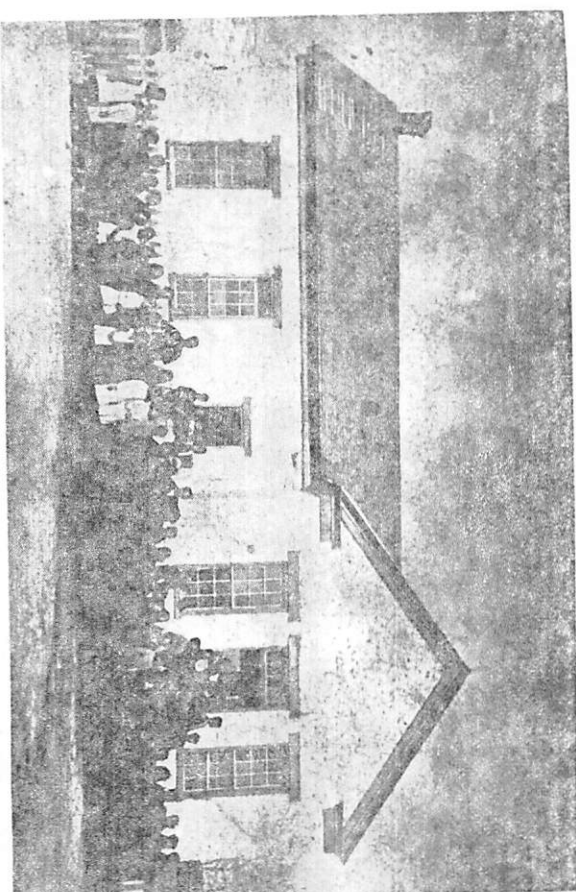


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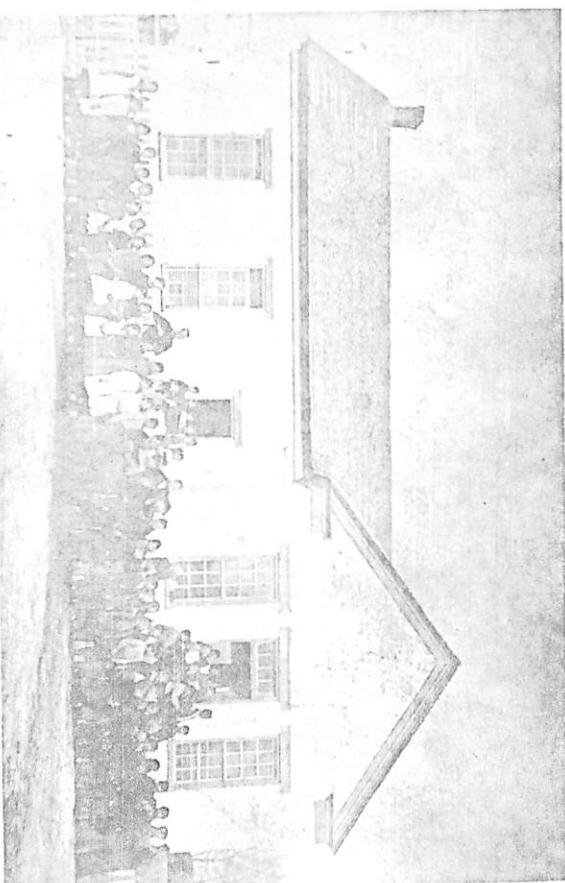
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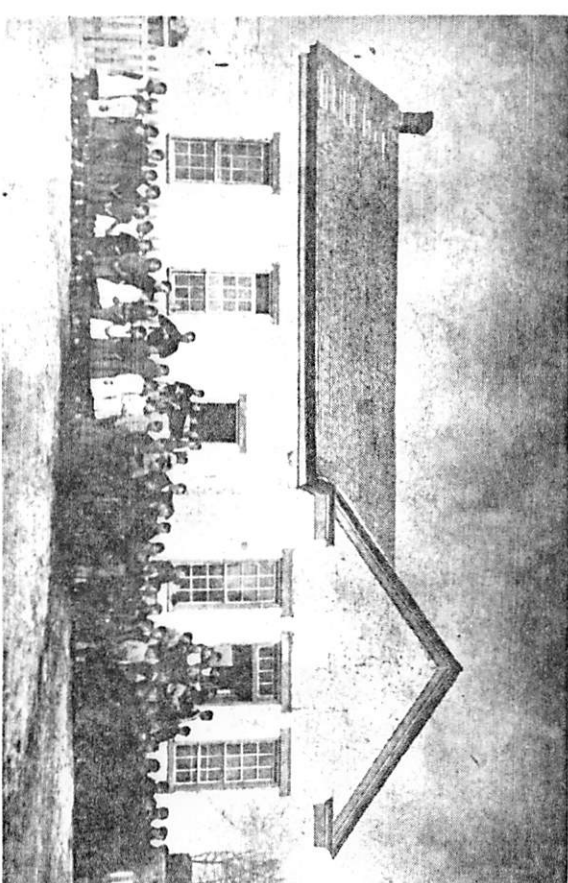
Midway School built 1867-8
occupied school year 1868-9
Made of Potrock + Stucco + White

Washed

Location: SE Corner of Town Square

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

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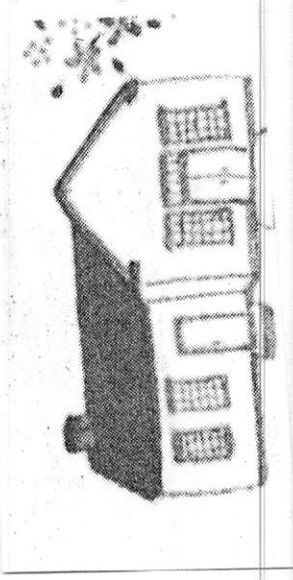


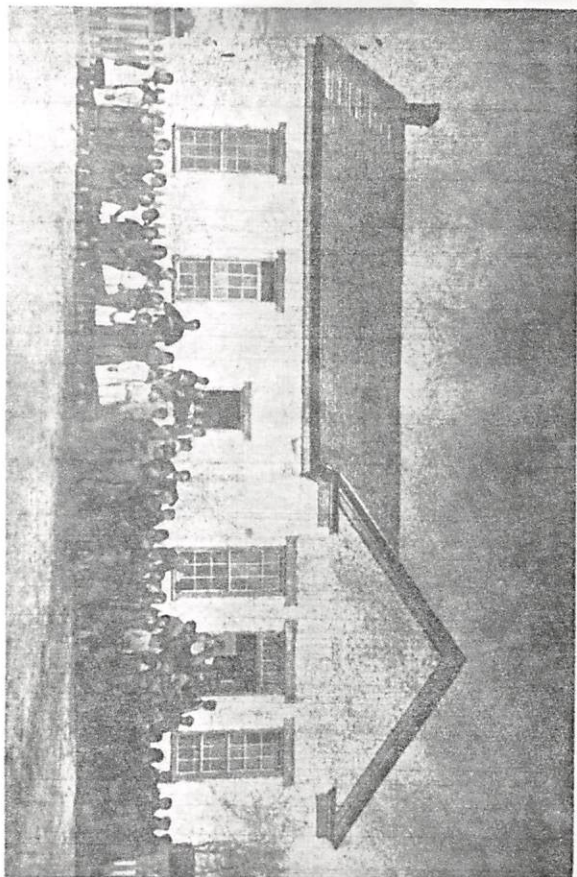
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See P
549-603

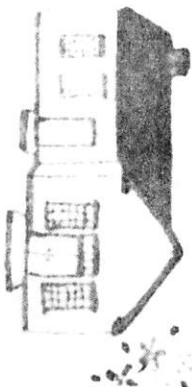
Theodore B. Miller (1901—)
 Stella Rasmussen (1901—)
 Rose Shore (1901—)
 Mary E. Abegglen (1901—)
 Charles E. Branson (1901—)

In old
 Belg
 4 Rooms
 one floor





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Midway School - 1868
Second Story - 1890

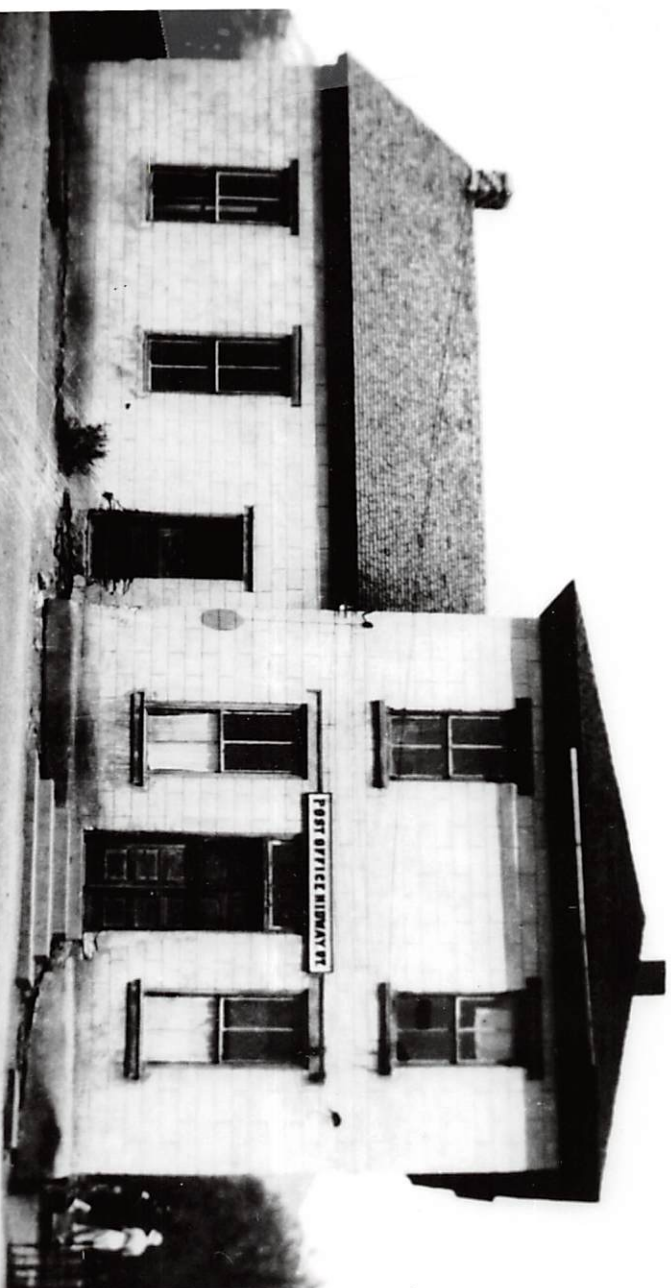
1890
→

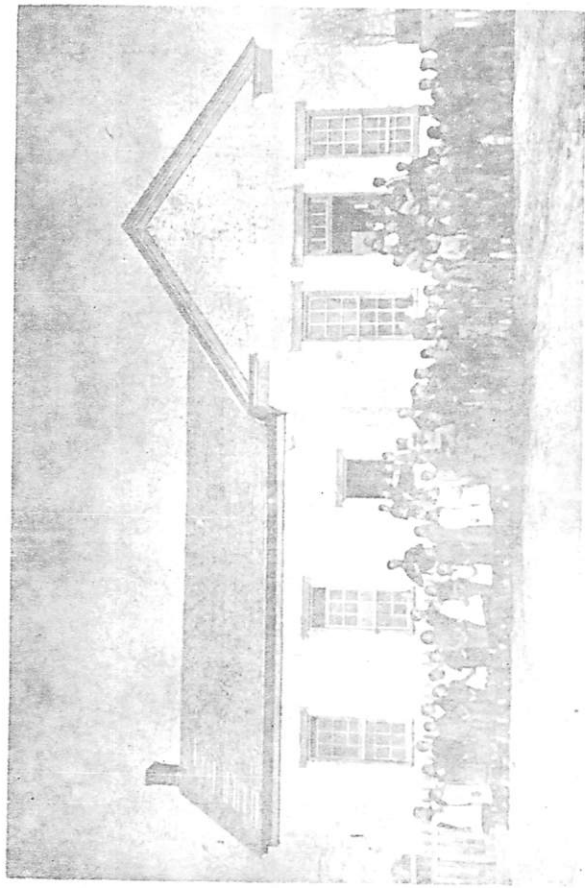
2nd Story added to make
3 rooms available to
teach in - 2 upstairs
& one downstairs
By move (1890) 252
pupils were attending
school in Midway

1890

Location: where Town Hall is now (1985)

P601 H84M





Students of the Midway School in the early 1880's are photographed outside their school building. Teachers at the time were Attefall Wootton Sr. and Attefall Wootton Jr.

geography charts and maps. "Commodious and neat" desks were also furnished.

Leo Haefeli, a former teacher, and newspaper correspondent, wrote at the time, "I defy any school district of the same size or even a good many considerably larger to show better educational facilities than are at present furnished to the people of this ward. That these facilities, gratuitous tuition, and sufficient teachers, staff-graded classes, excellent apparatus, convenient rooms have been appreciated by the people of Midway is evident by the fact that out of a legal population of about 270, the opening days of the mid-winter term found an enrollment of about 240, despite the inclement weather. True at the time of the high water tide in the spell of epidemic, the attendance fell off considerably, temporarily more than 60 per cent in the primary department, but the worst is over and the school grounds are reassuming their wonted air of vivacity about the hour when the bell's brazen tongue summons the little and big scholars to their desks and tasks."

In another newspaper column, Mr. Haefeli indicates that school children are perhaps the same from generation to generation. He wrote: "The other day one boy hurt another quite seriously by holding a freshly sharpened lead pencil under him, just as the school mate was about to resume his seat at the desk. Such tomfoolery cannot be reprimanded too severely nor suppressed too promptly."

School teachers of the 1890's were expected to improve themselves



A gathering at the old German Hall in Midway. Pictured are, first row, left to right, Fred Kuhni, Ernest Kuhni, Sterling Morton, William Boss, John Durtschi, Joseph Burgener, Alfred Durtschi, William Durtschi, Huldreich Durtschi, Johnnie Durtschi. Second row, Rose Kuhni, Otto Kuhni, Ida Kohler, Clara Buehler, Alma Durtschi, Alice Durtschi, Emma Durtschi. Third row, Maudie Utiger, Elizabeth Mooseman, Louise Kuhni, Barbara Bauer, Catherine L. Durtschi, Conrad Gertsch Sr., Ulrich Buehler, Johannes Krebs, John Bauer, Mrs. John Kummer. Fourth row, Ulrich Probst, Susan Probst, Emma Hasler, Mary Huber Probst, Mary B. Schoney, Elize Durtschi, Carolina Durtschi, Elize Durtschi Gertsch, Maryanne Zenger, Annie Abegglen, Margaret Stucki. Fifth row, John Burgener Jr., Fred Hasler, Eliza Buehler, Anna K. Probst, Elizabeth Kohler, Emma K. Probst, Mrs. Michael Abplanalp, Mrs. Albert Lockner, Mrs. Fred Haueter and baby, Eliza Ernsberger, Anna Seifert, Maggie Boss. Sixth row, Jacob Baumgartner, Henry Zenger, John Besendorfer, Gottlieb Kohler, Ulrich Kuhni, John U. Buehler, Michael Shilt, Fredrick Remund, Martin Seifert, John Kummer. Seventh row, Edward Durtschi Jr., Fred Buehler, Fredrick Durtschi Jr., Fredrick Durtschi Sr., John Boss, Jacob Probst, Edward Durtschi Sr., Ulrich Abegglen, Alfred Durtschi and Henry Zenger Sr.



Old German Hall served
as school

Constructed by 1875

Located across road north
of Town Square facing south.



German Hall
Beginning in 1896, it was
used as school class space.
& was rented for \$500/month
besides the 3-room potrock
building on SE Town Square
in Midway.

Ref.: HBU 603, 604



8th

GOTTLIEB AND LOUISA KREBS BUHLER



Gottlieb Buhler was born May 12, 1868 in Bern, Switzerland, the ninth and youngest son of Ulrich and Anna Burgdorffer Buhler. He married Louisa Krebs January 17,



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bara Bauer, Catherine L. Durtschi, Conrad Gertsch Sr., Ulrich Buehler, Johannes Krebs,
John Bauer, Mrs. John Kummer. Fourth row, Ulrich Probst, Susan Probst, Emma Hasler,
Mary Huber Probst, Mary B. Schoney, Elize Durtschi, Carolina Durtschi, Elize Durtschi
Gertsch, Maryanne Zenger, Annie Abegglen, Margaret Stucki. Fifth row, John Burgener
Jr., Fred Hasler, Eliza Buehler, Anna K. Probst, Elizabeth Kohler, Emma K. Probst, Mrs.
Michael Abplanalp, Mrs. Albert Lockner, Mrs. Fred Haueter and baby, Eliza Erns-
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Durtschi Sr., Ulrich Abegglen, Alfred Durtschi and Henry Zenger Sr.

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1889 in Midway, later solemnized in the Logan Temple.

Louisa Krebs Buhler was born December 21, 1872, at Willard, Utah, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Probst Krebs, who were natives of Bern, Switzerland. She died January 25, 1945.

Gottlieb was four years old when his family moved from Switzerland to Salt Lake City. His father walked one day to Midway and decided then that this would be where they would make their home.

The Buhler family moved into a log cabin located just east of the present Midway School. The following year they purchased land from Ezekial Bates and built a home which is now the Francis Probst property.

Gottlieb attended school in the old German Hall. As a boy he herded cows for two cents a day per cow, and worked on his father's farm. When he was 18 he left to work for himself, going into the hills to cut cord wood. He chopped about two cords per day at the rate of \$1.25 per cord. He later purchased four oxen and hauled timber to the mines and mills of Park City.

After his marriage to Louisa Krebs they lived in Cottonwood Canyon. She cooked for some of the men who worked in the canyon. About a year after their marriage they went with their one son and Gottlieb's family to the Logan Temple where they were sealed and the Buhler family had their temple work done. It was the first time the entire family had been together since coming to America, as two older girls in the family had come earlier.

In 1895 Gottlieb was called to serve as a missionary in Switzerland, and he left his wife and one child while he served. In 1906 he was called again into the mission field, this time to Germany.

During his missionary service, Louisa cared for the family and supported her husband in all his labors. Their second child was born while Gottlieb was serving on his first mission.

Both Gottlieb and Louisa were active in the Church. He was superintendent of the MIA, in the presidency of the 96th Quorum of Seventy and a stake missionary. Louisa was secretary of the Relief Society for many years and served on the Alpine Stake Relief Society Board, as work director. She loved to sew and make quilts.

Gottlieb owned and operated a farm in Midway, selling milk and raising livestock

for his living. In 1929 he and his wife moved to Pleasant Grove to retire, though they did engage in the chicken business there for a time.

After his wife's death in 1944 Gottlieb engaged in genealogical and temple work and was very faithful in this endeavor.

Children of Gottlieb and Louisa included:

- Ida, died
- Karl, died
- Clara, married to Oscar Young Giles
- Walter, married Wilma Witt
- Leda, died
- Morris, married Ruth Smith
- Arnold, died
- Alonzo, died
- Emery Grant, married Lynile Ash.

